THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 15,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 1307 *Chestnut street, Philadelphia, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall street, New York, or No.* 1307 *Chestnut street, Philadelphia,*) *will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

DRIVING HOME THE COWS.

Out of the clover and blue-eyed grass,
He turned them into the river-lane;
One after another he let them pass,
Then fastened the meadow bars again.

Under the willows and over the hill,
He patiently followed their sober pace;
The merry whistle for once was still,
And something shadowed the sunny face.

Only a boy! and his father had said
He never could let his youngest go!
Two already were lying dead,
Under the feet of the trampling foe.

But after the evening work was done,
And the frogs were loud in the meadow-swamp,
Over his shoulder he slung his gun
And stealthily followed the foot-path damp.

Across the clover and through the wheat
With resolute heart and purpose grim,
Though cold was the dew on his hurrying feet,
And the blind bats flitting startled him.

Thrice since then had the lanes been white,
And the orchards sweet with apple-bloom;
And now, when the cows came back at night,
The feeble father drove them home.

For news had come to the lonely farm
That three were lying were two had lain;
And the old man's tremulous, palsied arm
Could never lean on a son's again.

The summer day grew cool and late;
He went for the cows when his work was done;
But down the lane, as he opened the gate,
He saw them coming, one by one.

Brindle, Ebony, Speckle, and Bess,
Shaking their horns in the evening wind;
Cropping the butter cups out of the grass—
But who was it following close behind?

Loosely swang in the idle air
The empty sleeve of army blue;
And worn and pale, from the crisping hair,
Looked out a face that the father knew;

For Southern prisons will sometimes yawn,
And yield their dead unto life again;
And the day that comes with a cloudy dawn
In golden glory at last may wane.

The great tears sprang to their meeting eyes;
For the heart must speak when the lips are dumb,
And under the silent evening skies
Together they followed the cattle home.

Harper's Magazine.

A FORTNIGHT WITH THE SANITARY.

Reprinted from the Atlantic Monthly.

For three years I had been a thorough believer in the United States Sanitary Commission. Reading carefully its publications, listening with tearful interest to the narrations of those who had been its immediate workers at the front, following in imagination its campaigns of love and mercy, from Antietam to Gettysburg, from Belle Plain to City Point, and thence to the very smoke and carnage of the actual battlefield, I had come to cherish an unfeigned admiration for it and its work. For three years, too, I had been an earnest laborer at one of its out-

posts,—striving with others ever to deepen the interest and increase the fidelity of the loyal men and women of a loyal New England town. I was prepared then, both from my hearty respect for the charity and from my general conception of the nature and vastness of its operations, to welcome every opportunity to improve my knowledge of its plans and practical workings. I therefore gladly accepted the invitation which came to me to visit the headquarters of the Commission at Washington, and to examine for myself the character and amount of the benefits which it confers.

The evening of August 23d found me, after a speedy and pleasant trip southward, safely ensconced in the sanctum of my good friend Mr. Knapp, the head of the Special Relief Department. Starting from that base of operations, I spent two crowded weeks in ceaseless inquiries. Every avenue of information was thrown wide open. Two days I wandered, but not aimlessly, from office to office, from storehouse to storehouse, from soldiers' home to soldiers' home, conversing with the men who have given themselves up unstintedly to this charity, examining the books of the Commission, gathering statistics, seeing, as it were, the hungry soldier fed and the naked soldier clothed, and the sick and wounded soldier cared for with a more than fraternal kindness. I visited the hospitals, and with my own hands distributed the Sanitary delicacies to the suffering men. Steaming down the Chesapeake, and up the James, and along its homeless shores, I came to City Point; was a day and a night on board the Sanitary barges, whence full streams of comfort are flowing with an unbroken current to all our diverging camps; passed a tranquil, beautiful Sabbath in that city of the sick and wounded, whose white tents look down from the bluffs upon the turbid river; rode thirteen miles out almost the Weldon road, then in sharp contest between our Fifth Army Corps and the rebels; from the hills which Baldy Smith stormed in June saw the spires of Petersburg; went from tent to tent and from bedside to bedside in the field hospitals of the Fifth and Ninth Corps, where the luxuries prepared by willing hands at home were bringing life and strength to fevered lips and broken bodies. I came back with my courage reanimated, and with a more perfect faith in the ultimate triumph of the good cause. I came back with a heartier respect for our soldiers, whose patience in hardship and courage in danger are rivalled only by the heroism with which they bear the pains of sickness and wounds. I came back especially with the conviction that, no matter how much we had contributed to the Sanitary work, we had done only that which it was our duty to do, and that, so long as we could furnish shelter for our families and food for our children, it was our plain obligation to give and to continue giving out of our riches or out of our poverty.

I have felt that in no way could I do better service than by seeking to answer for others the very questions which my fortnight with the Sanitary has answered for me. Most, no doubt, have a general conviction that the charity inaugurated by the the Sanitary Commission is at once marvellous in its extent and unique in the history of war. All, perhaps, are prepared to allow that the heart which conceived such an enterprise, and the mind which organized it, and the persistent will which carried it to a successful issue, are entitled to all the praise which we can give them. Few will deny now that this and kindred associations, by decreasing the waste of war, will affect in an important degree our national fortunes. And most, indeed, know something even about the details of Sanitary work. They comprehend, at least, that through its agency many a homely comfort and many a home luxury find their way to the wards of great hospitals. They have seen, too, the Commission step forward in great emergencies, after some terrible battle, when every energy of Government was burdened and overburdened by the gigantic demands of the hour, and from its storehouses send thousands of packages, and from its offices hundreds of relief agents, to help to meet almost unprecedented exigencies.

But what people wish to know, and what, despite all that has been written, they do not know fully and definitely, is how and when and where, and through what channels and by what methods, the Commission works: precisely how the millions which have been poured into its treasury from public contributions and private benefactions have been coined into comfort for the soldier,—how the thousands and hundreds of thousands of garments which have gone forth to unknown destinations have been made warmth for his body and cheer to his soul. The whole heighth and depth and length and breadth of Sanitary work, what varied activities and what multiform chari-

ties are included in the great circumference of its organization,—of that not one in twenty has any adequate conception. And all about that is what everybody wishes to know. The curiosity, moreover, which dictates such queries, is a natural and laudable curiosity. Those who have given at every call, and often from scanty means, and those who have plied the needle summer and winter, early and late, have a right to put such questions. The Commission wishes to answer all proper inquiries fully and unreservedly. It would throw open its operations to the broadest sunlight. It believes that the more entirely it is known, in its successes and its failures alike, the more sure it is to be liberally sustained. To bring the humblest contributor from the most distant branch, as it were, into immediate communication with the front is a work most desirable to be done. I do not wish to glorify the Commission, nor to theorize about it, nor to discuss its relative merit as compared with that of kindred organizations, but rather to tell just what it is doing, precisely where the money goes, and exactly what kinds of good are attempted.

The work of the Sanitary Commission may be naturally and conveniently classed under five heads.

First, the work undertaken for the prevention of sickness and suffering.

Second, the Special Relief Department.

Third, the Hospital Directory.

Fourth, the assistance given to stationary hospitals.

Fifth, the grand operations in the front, on or near the actual battle-field.

The efforts for the prevention of suffering and sickness are first in order of time, and possibly first in importance. When this war commenced, we had no wounded and we had no sick. What we did have was a crowd of men full of untrained courage, but who knew little or nothing about military discipline, and as little in regard to what was necessary for the preservation of their health. What we did have was hundreds and thousands of officers, taken from every walk of life, who were, for the most part, men of great natural intelligence, but who did not at all comprehend that it was their duty not only to lead their men in battle, but to care for their health and their habits, and who had never dreamed that such homely considerations as what are the best modes of cooking food, what are the most health localities in which to pitch tents, what is the right position for drains, had anything to do with the art of war. What we did have was surgeons, many of whom had achieved an honorable reputation in the walks of civil life, but who, on this new field, were alike inexperienced and untried. The manifest danger was, that this mass of living valor and embodied patriotism would simply be squandered,—that, as in the terrible Walcheren expedition, or in the Crimea, the men whose strength and courage might decide a campaign would only furnish food for the hospital and the grave.

Who should avert this danger? The Government could not. It had no time to sit down and study sanitary science. It was bringing together everything, where it found—nothing. Out of farmers and merchants and students it was organizing the most efficient of armies. It was sending its agents all over the world to buy guns and munitions of war. It was tasking our factories to produce blankets and overcoats, knapsacks and haversacks, wagons and tents, and all that goes to make up the multifarious equipment of an army. It was peering into our dockyards to find steamers and sailing vessels out of which to gather makeshift navies, until it could find leisure to build stancher ships. Manifestly the Government had no time for such a work. The existing medical bureau was hardly equal to the task. Organized to take charge of an army of ten thousand men, in the twinkling of an eye that army became five hundred thousand. At the beginning of the war the medical staff must have been very busy and very heavily burdened. With great hospitals to build, with troops of willing, but young and inexperienced surgeons to train to a knowledge of their duties, and to send east and west and north and south, with every department of medical science to be enlarged at once to the proportions of the war, it had little leisure for excursions into fresh fields of inquiry. That it brought order so quickly out of chaos, that it was able to extemporize a good working system, is a sufficient testimony to its general fidelity and efficiency. It was the Sanitary Commission which undertook this special duty. It undertook to find out some of the laws of health which apply to army life, and then to scatter the knowledge of those laws broadcast.

Prevention, therefore, effort not so much to comfort and cure the sick soldier as to keep him from being sick at all, was, in order of time, properly the first work. And it is doubtful whether at the outset anything

more was contemplated. The memorial to the War Department in May, 1861, says, explicitly that the object of the Commission "is to bring to bear upon the health, comfort, and *morale* of our troops the fullest and ripest teachings of sanitary science." How many of the contributors to the funds of the Society are aware what an immense work in this direction has been undertaken, and how much has been accomplished to prevent sickness and the consequent depletion, and perhaps defeat of our armies? As I have already indicated, at the commencement of the war we knew little or nothing about what was necessary to keep men in military service well,—what food, what clothing, what tents, what camps, what recreations, what everything, I may say. Now the Sanitary Commission has made searching inquiries touching every point of camp and soldier life,—gathering in facts from all quarters, and seeking to attain to some fixed sanitary principles. It has sent the most eminent medical men on tours of inspection to all our camps, who have put questions and given hints to the very men to whom they were of the most direct importance. As a result, we have a mass of facts, which, in the breadth of the field which they cover, in the number of vital questions which they settle, and in the fulness and accuracy of the testimony by which they are sustained, are worth more than all the sanitary statistics of all other nations put together.

And we are to consider that these inquiries were from the beginning turned to practical use. If you look over your pile of dusty pamphlets, very likely you will find a little Sanitary tract entitled, "Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier." This was issued almost before the war had seriously begun. Or you will come across some republished European medical paper containing the last results of the last foreign investigations. So early was the good seed of sanitary knowledge sown. We must remember, too, how many mooted, yet vital questions have now been put to rest. Take an example,—Quinine. Everybody had a general notion that quinine was as valuable as a preventive of disease as a cure. But how definite was our knowledge? How many knew when and in what positions and to what extent it was valuable? As early as 1861 the Commission prepared and published what has been justly termed an exhaustive monograph on the whole subject, collecting into a brief space all the best testimony bearing upon the question. This was the beginning of an investigation which, pursued through a vast number of cases, has demonstrated that, in peculiar localities and under certain circumstances, quinine in full doses is an almost absolute necessity. And in such localities, and under such circumstances, Government issues now a daily ration to every man, saving who can tell how many valuable lives? One more illustration,—Camps. Suppose you were to lead a thousand men into the Southern country. Would you know where to encamp them? whether with a southern or a northern exposure? on a breezy hill, or in a sheltered valley? beneath the shade of groves, or out in the broad sunshine? Could you tell what kind of soil was healthiest, or how near to each other you could safely pitch your tents, or whether it would be best for your men to sleep on the bare ground or on straw or on pine boughs? Yet, if you inquire, you will find that all these questions and countless others are definitely settled,—thanks in a great measure to the Sanitary Commission, which has gladly given its ounce of prevention, that it may spare its pound of cure.

If you imagine that the need of this work of prevention has ceased, you are greatly mistaken. Only last summer, in the single month of June, the Commission distributed, in the Army of the Potomac alone, over a hundred tons of canned fruits and tomatoes, and not less than five thousand barrels of pickles and fresh vegetables. It is hardly too much to say that what the Commission did in this respect has gone far towards enabling our gallant army to disappoint the hopes of the enemy, and to hold amid the deadly assaults of malaria, the vantage-ground which it has won before Petersburg and Richmond. All through the spring and summer, too, at Chattanooga, on the very soil which war had ploughed and desolated, invalid soldiers have been cultivating hundreds of acres of vegetables. And on the rugged sides of Missionary Ridge, and along the sunny slopes of Central Tennessee, the same forethought has brought to perfection, in many a deserted vineyard, the purple glory of the grape. And this not merely to cure, but to prevent, to keep up the strength and vigor of the brave men who have marched victoriously from the banks of the Ohio to Atlanta.

Nor is it likely that the value of this office will cease so long as the war lasts. In the future, as in the past, new conditions,

new exigencies, and new dangers will arise. And to the end the foresight which guards will be as true a friend to the soldier as the kindness which assuages his pains. Looking back, therefore, upon the whole field, and speaking with a full understanding of the meaning of the language, I am ready to affirm, that, if the Sanitary Commission had undertaken nothing but the work of preventing sickness, and had accomplished nothing in any other direction, the army and the country would have received in that alone an ample return for all the money which has been lavished.

I come now to the Special Relief Department. I should call this a sort of philanthropic drag-net, differing from that mentioned in the Gospel in that it seems to gather up nothing bad which needs to be thrown away. In other words, it appeared to me as though any and every kind of Sanitary good which ought to be done, and yet was not large enough or distinct enough to constitute a separate branch, was set down as Special Relief. The whole system of homes and lodges to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless comes directly under the head of Special Relief. The immense collection of back-pay, bounties, pensions, and prize-money, which is made gratuitously by the Commission, is Special Relief. Visits to the hospitals are under the direction of this same department. And even the Directory and the vast work done at the front perhaps legitimately belong to it. We can readily conceive, therefore, that the Commission has no department which is larger or more important, or which covers so wide and diversified a field of activity. Let us survey that field a little closer.

Sanitary homes and lodges,—what are they? A soldier is discharged, or he has a furlough. He is not well and strong, and he has no money, certainly none to spare. He ought not to sleep on the ground, and he ought not to go hungry. But what is everybody's business is apt to be nobody's business. Fortunately the Commission has seen and met this want. In Washington, on H Street, there is a block of rough, but comfortable one-story wooden buildings, erected for various purposes of Special Relief, and, amongst others, for the very one which I have mentioned. In the first place, there is a large room containing ninety-six berths, where any soldier, having proper claims, can obtain decent lodgings free of expense. In the second place, there is a kitchen, and a neat, cheerful dining-room, with seats for one hundred and fifty. Here plain and substantial meals are furnished to all comers. This table of one hundred and fifty has often, and indeed usually to be spread three times; so that the Commission feeds daily at this place alone some four hundred soldiers, and lodges ninety to a hundred more. The home which I have now described is simply for transient calls.

Near the depot there is a home of a more permanent character. When a soldier is discharged from the service, the Government has, in the nature of the case, no further charge of him. Suppose now that he is taken sick, with no money in his purse and no friends near. Can you imagine a position more forlorn? And forlorn indeed it would be, were it not for the Commission. The sick home is a large three-story building, with three or four one-story buildings added on each side. Here there is furnished food for all; then one hundred and fifty beds for those who are not really sick, but only ailing and worn out; then bathing-rooms; and, finally, a reading-room. There is here, too, a hospital ward, with the requisite nurses and medical attendance. In this ward I saw a little boy, apparently not over twelve years of age, who had strayed from his home,—if, alas, he had one!—and followed to the field an Ohio regiment of hundred-days' men, and who had been taken sick and left behind. Who he was or where from nobody knew. Tenderly cared for, but likely to die! A sad sight to look upon! One feature more, Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday a physician goes from the home in Washington to New York, taking charge of those who are too sick or too crippled to care for themselves; while the relief agents procure for the sick soldier the half-price ticket to which he is entitled, or else give him one, and such articles of clothing as are needful to send him in comfort to his own home.

I must not fail to speak in this connection of another beautiful ministry,—the home for soldiers' wives and mothers. A soldier is like other human beings. In his sickness he yearns for a sight of the familiar faces, and sends for wife or mother; or wife or mother, unable to bear longer the uncertainty, when she can get no tidings from the absent, starts for Washington. There, searching vainly for husband or son, she spends all or nearly all her money. Or if she finds him, it may well be that he has

no funds with which to help her. In the little buildings on one side of the refuge for the sick are rooms where some sixty-five can receive decent lodging and nourishing food; and if actually penniless, the Commission will procure them tickets and send them back to their friends.

We often hear people wondering, almost in a skeptical tone, where all the Commission's money goes. When I was at Washington and City Point, I only asked where it all came from. Consider what it must cost simply to feed and lodge these soldiers and their wives at Washington. And then remember that this is but one of many similar homes scattered everywhere: at Baltimore, Washington, and Alexandria, in the Eastern Department; at Louisville, Nashville, Chattanooga, in the Western; at New Orleans and Baton Rouge, in the Southwestern; and at many another place beside. And, finally, reflect that this whole system of homes is really but one portion of one branch of Sanitary work.

The collection of back-pay, bounties, and pensions,—how many have a definite idea of this work? Not many, I suspect. Yet it takes all the time of many persons to accomplish it, and it was the branch of Sanitary work which awakened in my own mind the deepest regard; for it has its foundation in a higher virtue than any mere sentimental charity,—yea, in the highest virtue known in heaven or on earth,—justice. However impossible it may be to prevent such occurrences, certainly it is a cruel and undeserved hardship to a soldier who has served faithfully and fought for his country, and has perhaps been wounded and almost died at the post of honor and duty, that he should be unable to obtain his hard-earned pittance, when, too, he needs it for his own comfort, or when it may be that his family need it to keep them from absolute suffering.

Look at a single class of these collections, the back-pay of sick men. Government, we all allow, must have some system in its disbursements. It should not pay money without a voucher, and the proper voucher of a soldier is the pay-roll of the regiment or company of which he is a member. Now a sick or wounded man drops out of the ranks. He gets into a field hospital to which he does not belong. He is transferred from one hospital to another, from hospital to convalescent camp, and finally, it may be, is put on the list of men to be discharged for physical disability. Meanwhile his commanding officer does not know where he is, cannot trace him, thinks it very likely that he is a deserter. On pay-day the man's name is not on the roll, and, having no voucher, he gets no money. You say that there ought to be a remedy. There is none. It would be difficult to devise one. What shall the soldier do? He cannot go from point to point to collect evidence, for he is sick. Besides, he is utterly ignorant of the necessary forms. If he applies to a lawyer, it costs him often from one-half to three-quarters of all he gets. Very likely the lawyer cannot afford to take care of one or two petty cases for a less price. In this emergency the Commission steps in, and, with its knowledge of routine and its credit in all quarters, obtains for the poor fellow for nothing what he has in vain sought for in other ways. Take one single case, and what they would call at the Relief Office an easy case. Study it attentively, and you will get an idea of all cases,—and you will understand, moreover, how much work has to be done, and how impossible it would be for a sick man to do it.

Charles W. J——, is a member of Company K, One hundred and Twenty-First New York Regiment, and he has been transferred to this company and regiment from Company F of the Sixteenth New York. He has been thus transferred for the reason that the Sixteenth New York is a two years' regiment, whose time has expired, while he is a three years' recruit, who has a year or two more to serve. Now he claims that pay is due him from November 1, 1863, to August 1, 1864, and that he needs his pay very much to send home to his wife. He represents that he was at Schuyler Hospital from the time he left the ranks until December 17, 1863; that then he was sent to Convalescent Camp, New York Harbor; and on December 29, to Camp of Distribution at Alexandria; whence, February 8, 1864, he was brought to Staunton Hospital, Washington, where he now is. He has never joined his new regiment, has only been transferred with others to its rolls. His new officers have never seen him, and do not know where he is. The relief agent hears the story and then sets about proving all its details: first, that the man was a member of the Sixteenth New York Regiment; second, that he has been transferred to the One Hundred and Twenty-First Regiment; third, that he has never

been paid beyond November 1, 1863; fourth, that he has really been in the various hospitals and camps which he mentions. This evidence is procured by writing to agents and surgeons at convalescent and distributing camps, and at Hospital Schuyler, and by examining the rolls of the Sixteenth and One Hundred and Twenty-First Regiments. In a few days or weeks the man's story is proved to be correct, and he is put into a position to receive his pay,—a satisfaction not simply in a pecuniary sense, but also to his soldierly pride, by removing an undeserved charge of desertion.

Now I beg my readers not to imagine that this is a difficult case. At the Relief Rooms they treasure up and mysteriously display, much as I suspect a soldier would flaunt a captured battle-flag, a certain roll of paper, I dare not say how many yards long, covered with certificates from one end to the other, obtained from all parts of the country and from all sorts of persons, and all necessary in order to secure perhaps a three or six months' pay of one sick soldier. The correspondence of the back-pay department is itself a burden. From thirty to forty letters on an average are received daily at one of its offices. They are written in all languages,—English, German, French,—and must be read, translated, and the ideas, conveyed often in the blindest style, ascertained and answered.

A new branch has recently been added,—the collection of pay for the families of those who are prisoners in Rebeldom. But as this involves no new principles or fresh details, I pass it by. Another class of cases should receive a moment's notice. This includes the collection of bounties for discharged soldiers, of pensions for wounded soldiers, of bounty, back-pay, and pensions for the families of deceased soldiers, and of prize-money for sailors. These cases are not, as a general rule, as intricate as those which I have already considered, inasmuch as the proper departments have a regular system of investigation, and take up and examine for themselves each case in its turn. All that the Commission does is to put the soldier on the right track, and to make out and present for him the fitting application. It undertook this because Washington was infested with a horde of sharpers, who, by false representations, defrauded the soldiers out of large sums.

I cannot more appropriately close this branch of my subject than by stating the simple fact, that during the months of July and August, the relief agents examined and brought to a successful issue 809 cases of back-pay and bounty-money, averaging $125,—203 cases of invalid pensions, 378 cases of widows' pensions, and 10 cases of naval pensions, averaging $8 a month,—and 121 cases of prize-money, averaging $80.

I have only to add that the amount of good which can be done in this direction seems to be limited only by the capacity of those who undertake to do it. A relief agent said to me, in conversation, that in one hospital in Philadelphia, there were several hundreds who claimed, but were unable to collect their just dues,—and that what was true of this hospital was true to a less extent of all of them.

The Hospital Directory is a most interesting branch of Sanitary work. Not because it will compare with many other branches in extent of usefulness, but because it shows what a wide-reaching philanthropy is at work, seeking to furnish every possible alleviation to the inevitable hardships of war. Whoever has at any time had a sick or wounded friend in the army knows how difficult it often is to obtain any intelligence about him. I have in mind a poor woman, who exhausted every resource in seeking to ascertain the whereabouts of a sick son, and who never received any tidings of him, until one day, months after, he came home, worn-out and broken, to die. The regiment is in active service and passes on, while the sick man goes back. He has several transfers, too,—first to the corps hospital on the field, then to the army hospital at City Point, then to Washington, and very possibly again to some hospital in Baltimore, Philadelphia, or other city or town farther north, and on that account believed to be more healthy. Meanwhile, amid all these changes, the man may be delirious, or from some other cause unable to communicate with his friends. How shall they get information? The Commission undertakes to keep a correct list of all the sick and wounded men who are in regular hospitals. They obtain their information from the official returns of the surgeons. I do not mean to say that these lists are absolutely correct. They approximate as nearly to correctness as they ever can, until surgeons are perfectly prompt and careful in their reports.

The amount of work done is very great.

Seven hundred thousand names have been recorded in this Directory, between October, 1862, and July, 1864. From ten to twenty-five applications for information are made each day by letter, and from one hundred to two hundred and fifty personally or through the various State agencies. Branch offices, working upon a similar plan, have been established at Louisville and elsewhere.

The subject of assistance to regular hospitals may be despatched in a few words,—not because the gifts are insignificant, but because the method of giving is so regular and easy to explain. Whenever the surgeon of any hospital needs articles which are extras, and so not supplied by the Government, or which, if allowed, the Government is deficient in at the time, he makes a requisition upon the Commission; and if his requisition is deemed to be a reasonable one, it is approved, and the goods delivered on his receipt for the same. As to the amount given, I can only say that something is sent almost every day even to the hospitals near Washington and the great cities, and that the amount bestowed increases just in proportion to the distance of the hospital from the great Government centres of supply. This is a noiseless and unostentatious charity,—sometimes, I am tempted to think, too noiseless and unostentatious. A few weeks ago, a lady friend visited one of the hospitals near Washington, carrying with her for distribution some Sanitary goods. She gave a handkerchief to one of the sick men. He took it, looked at it, read the mark in the corner, paused as if he had received a new idea, and then spoke out his mind thus:—"I have been in this hospital six months, and this is the first thing I ever received from the Sanitary Commission." "But," she replied, "have you not had this and that?" mentioning several luxuries supplied to this very hospital for extra diet. "Oh, yes, often!" "Well, every one of these articles came from the Sanitary Commission."

Just now the Sanitary is seeeking to enter into closer relations with the hospitals through the agency of regular visitors. The advantages of such a policy are manifest. The reports of the visitors will enable the directors to see more clearly the real wants of the sick; and the frequent presence and inquiries of such visitors will tend to repress the undue appropriation of hospital stores by attendants. But the highest benefit will be the change and cheer it will introduce into the monotony of hospital life. If you are sick at home, you are glad to have your neighbour step in and bring the healthy bracing air of out-door life into the dimness and languor of your invalid existence. Much more does the sick soldier like it,—for ennui, far more than pain, is his great burden. When I was at Washington, I accepted with great satisfaction an invitation to go with a Sanitary visitor on her round of duty. When we came to the hospital, I asked the ward-master if he would like to have me distribute among his patients the articles I had brought. He said that he should, for he thought it would do the poor fellows good to see me and receive the gifts from my own hands. The moment I entered there was a stir. Those who could hobble about stumped up to me to see what was going on; some others sat up in bed, full of alertness; while the sickest greeted me with a languid smile. As I went from cot to cot, the politeness of *la belle France*, with which a little Frenchman in the corner touched the tassel of his variegated nightcap at me, and the untranslatable gutturals, full of honest satisfaction, with which his German neighbour saluted me, and the "God bless your honor," which a cheery son of Old Erin showered down upon me, and the simple "Thank you, sir," which came up on all sides from our true-hearted New England boys, were alike refreshing to my soul. No doubt the single peach or two which with hearty good-will were given to them were as good as a feast; and it may be that the little comforts which I left behind me, and which had been borne thither on the wings of this divine charity, perhaps from some village nestling among the rocky hills of New England, or from some hamlet basking in the sunlight on the broad prairies of the West, had magic power to bring to that place of suffering some breath of the atmosphere of home to cheer the sinking heart, or some fragrant memory of far-off home affection to make it better. I came away with the feeling that visits from sunny-hearted people, and gifts from friendly hands must be a positive blessing to these sick and wounded people.

Of course the deepest throb of interest is given to the work at the front of battle. That is natural. It is work done on the very spots where the fortunes of our nation are being decided,—on the spots whither all eyes are turned, and towards which all

our hopes and prayers go forth. It is work surrounded by every element of pathos and of tragic interest. The wavering fortunes of the fight, the heroic courage which sustains a doubtful conflict, the masterly skill that turns disaster into triumph, the awful carnage, the terrible suffering, the manly patience of the wounded, all combine to fix the attention there and upon everything which is transacted there. The questions constantly asked,—What is the Sanitary doing at the front? what at City Point? what at Winchester? are natural questions. Let me state first the general plan and method of what I may call a Sanitary campaign, and afterwards add what I saw with my own eyes at City Point and before Petersburg, and what I heard from those who had themselves been actors in the scenes which they described.

When the army moves out from its encampment to the field of active warfare, two or three Sanitary wagons, loaded with hospital stores of all sorts, and accompanied by a sufficient number of relief agents, move with each army corps. These are for the supply of present need, and for use during the march, or after such skirmishes and fights as may occur before the Commission can establish a new base. In this way some of the Commission agents have followed General Grant's army all the way from the Rapidan, through the Wilderness, across the Mattapony, over the James, on to the very last advance towards the Southside Railroad,—refilling their wagons with stores as opportunity has occurred. As soon now as the march commences and the campaign opens, preparations upon an extensive scale are made at Washington for the great probable demand. Steamers are chartered, loaded, and sent with a large force of relief agents to the vicinity of the probable battle-fields; or if the campaign is away from water communication, loaded wagons are held in readiness. The moment the locality of the struggle is determined, then, under the orders of the provost marshal, an empty house is seized and made the Sanitary headquarters, or general store-house; or else some canal barge is moored at the crazy Virginia wharf, and used for the same purpose. This store-house is kept constantly full from Washington, or else from Baltimore and New York; and the branch depots which are now established in each army corps are fed from it, while the hospitals, in their turn, make requisitions for all needful supplies on these branch depots. That is to say, the arrangements, though rougher and less permanent in their character, approximate very nearly to the arrangements at Washington.

A few details need to be added. Where the distance from the battle-field to the base of supplies is great, what are called feeding-stations are established every few miles, and here the wounded, on foot or in ambulances, can stop and take the refreshments or stimulants necessary to sustain them on their painful journey. At the steamboat landing the Commission has a lodge and agents, with crackers and beef-tea, coffee and tea, ice-water and stimulants, ready to be administered to such as need. Relief agents go up on the boats to help care for the wounded; and at Washington the same scene of active kindness is often enacted on their arrival as at their departure. This is the general plan of action everywhere, modified to suit circumstances, but always essentially the same. It will apply just as well West as East,—only for the names Baltimore, Washington, and City Point, you must put Louisville, Nashville, and Chattanooga.

When I was at City Point, the base of operations had been established there more than two months; and though there was much sickness, and the wounded were being brought in daily by hundreds from the prolonged struggle for the Weldon Road, everything moved on with the regularity of clock-work. As you neared the landing, coming up the James, you saw, a little farther up the river, the red flag of the Sanitary Commission floating over the three barges which were its office, its store-house, and its distributing store for the whole Army of the Potomac. Climbing up the steep road to the top of the bluff, and advancing over the undulating plain a mile, you come to a city—the city of hospitals. The white tents are arranged in lines of almost mathematical accuracy. The camp is intersected by roads broad and clean. Every corps, and every division of every corps, has its allotted square. Somewhere in these larger squares your eye will be sure to catch sight of the Sanitary flag, and beneath it a tent, where is the corss station. You enter, and you find within, if not as great an amount, at least as varied a supply, of hospital stores as you would find anywhere, waiting for surgeon's orders. To a very great extent, the extra diet for all the sick and wounded is furnished from these

stores; and very largely the cooking of it is overseen by ladies connected with the Commission. In every corps there are from five to fifteen relief agents, whose duty it is to go through the wards once, twice, three times in each day, to see what the sick need for their comfort, to ascertain that they really get what is ordered, and in every way to alleviate suffering, and to promote cheerfulness and health.

I shall never forget a tour which I made with a relief agent through the wards for the blacks, both because it showed me what a watchful supervision a really faithful person can exercise, and because it gave such an opportunity to observe closely the conduct of these people. The demeanor of the colored patients is really beautiful,—so gentle, so polite, so grateful for the least kindness. And then the evidences of a desire for mental improve and religious life which meet you everywhere are very touching. Go from bed to bed, and you see in their hands primers, spelling-books, and Bibles, and the poor, worn, sick creatures, the moment they feel one throb of returning health striving to master their alphabet or spell out their Bible. In the evening, or rather in the fading twilight, some two hundred of them crept from the wards, and seated themselves in a circle around a black exhorter. Religion to them was a real thing; and so their worship had the beauty of sincerity, while I ought to add that it was not marked by that grotesque extravagance sometimes attributed to it. One cannot but think better of the whole race after the experience of such a Sabbath. The only drawback to your satisfaction is, that they die quicker and from less cause than the whites. They have not the same stubborn hopefulness and hilarity. Why, indeed, should they have?

Speaking of the white soldiers, everybody who goes into their hospitals is happily disappointed,—you see so much order and cheerfulness, and so little evidence of pain and misery. The soldier is quite as much a hero in the hospital as on the battle-field. Give him anything to be cheerful about, and he will improve the opportunity. You see men who have lost an arm or a leg, or whose heads have been bruised almost out of likeness to humanity, as jolly as they can be over little comforts and pleasures which ordinary eyes can hardly see with a magnifying glsss. So it happens that a camp of six thousand sick and wounded, which seems at a distance a concentration of human misery that you cannot bear to behold, when near does not look half so lugubrious as you expected; and you are tempted to accuse the sick men of having entered into a conspiracy to look unnaturally happy.

If you go back now six or thirteen miles to the field hospitals, you find nothing essentially different. The system and its practical workings are the same. But it is a perpetual astonishment to find that here, near to the banks of a river that has not a respectable village on its shores, from Fortress Monroe to Richmond,—here, in a houseless and desolate land which can be reached only by roads which are intersected by gullies, which plunge into sloughs of despond, which lose themselves in the ridges of what were once cornfields, or meander amid stumps of what so lately stood a forest, —that here you have every comfort for the sick: all needed articles of clothing, the shirts and drawers, the socks and slippers; and all the delicacies, too, the farinas, the jellies, the canned meats and fruits, the concentrated milk, the palatable drinks and stimulants, and even fresh fruits and vegetables. And in such profusion, too? I asked the chief agent of the Commission in the Ninth Corps how many orders he filled in a day. "Look for yourself." I took down the orders; and there they were, one hundred and twenty strong, some for little and some for much, some for a single article and some for a dozen articles.

But it is not in camps of long standing that the wounded and sick suffer for want of care or lack of comforts. It is when the base is suddenly changed, when all order is broken up, when there are no tents at hand, when the stores are scattered, nobody knows where, after a great battle perhaps, and the wounded are pouring in upon you like a flood, and when it seems as if no human energy and no mortal capacity of transportation could supply the wants both of the well and the sick, the almost insatiable demands of the battle-field and the equally unfathomable needs of the hospital, it is then that the misery comes, and it is then that the Commission does its grandest work. After the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, twenty-five thousand wounded were crowded into Fredericksburg, where but ten thousand were expected. For a time supplies of all kinds seemed to be literally exhausted. There were no beds.

There was not even straw. There were not surgeons enough nor attendants enough. There was hardly a supply of food. Some found it difficult to get a drop of cold water. Poor, wounded men, who had wearily trudged from the battle-field and taken refuge in a deserted house, remained hours and a day without care, and without seeing the face of any but their wounded comrades. Then the Sanitary Commission sent its hundred and fifty agents to help the overburdened surgeons. Then every morning it despatched its steamer down the Potomac crowded with necessaries and comforts. Then with ceaseless industry its twenty wagons, groaning under their burden, went to and fro over the wretched road from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. A credible witness says that for several days nearly all the bandages and a large proportion of the hospital supplies came from its treasury. No mind can discern and no tongue can declare what valuable lives it saved, and what sufferings it alleviated. Who shall say that Christian charity has not its triumphs proud as were ever won on battle-field? If the Commission could boast only of its first twenty-four hours at Antietam and Gettysburg and its forty-eight hours at Fredericksburg, it would have earned the everlasting gratitude and praise of all true men.

But is there not a reverse to this picture? Are there no drawbacks to this success? Is there no chapter of abortive plans, of unfaithful agents, of surgeons and attendants appropriating or squandering charitable gifts? These are questions which are often honestly asked, and the doubts which they express or awaken have cooled the zeal and slackened the industry of many an earnest worker. There is no end to the stories which have been put in circulation. I remember a certain mythical blanket which figured in the early part of the war, and which, though despatched to the soldier, was found a few weeks after, by its owner, adorning the best bed of a hotel in Washington. To be sure it seemed to have pursued a wandering life,—for now it was sent from the full stores of a lady in Lexington, and now it was stripped perhaps by a poor widow from the bed of her children, and then it was heard from far off in the West, ever seeking, but never reaching, its true destination. Without heeding any such stories, although they have done infinite mischief, I answer to honest queries, that I have no doubt that sometimes the stores of the Commission are both squandered and misappropriated. I do not positively know it; but I am sure that it would be a miracle if they were not. It would be the first time in human history that so large and varied a business, and extending over such a breadth of country and such a period of time, was transacted without waste. Look at the facts. Here are thousands of United States surgeons, and attendants of all ages and characters, through whose hands many of these gifts must necessarily go. What wonder, if here and there one should be found whose principles were weaker than his appetites? Consider also the temptations. These men are hard-worked, often scantily fed. Every nerve is tried by the constant presence of suffering, and every sense by fetid odors. Would it be surprising, if they sometimes craved the luxuries which were so close at hand? Moreover, the Commission employs hundreds of men, the very best it can get, but it would be too much to ask that all should be models of prudence, watchfulness, and integrity.

I allow, then, that some misappropriation is not improbable. At the same time I do say, that every department is vigilantly watched, and that the losses are trivial, compared with the immense benefits. I do say, emphatically, that to bring a wholesale charge against whole classes, whose members are generally as high-minded and honorable as any other, to accuse them as a body of wretched peculations, is simply false and slanderous. I maintain that fidelity is the rule, and that its reverse is the petty exception; and that it would be in opposition to all rules by which men conduct their lives to suffer such exceptions to influence our conduct, or diminish our contributions to a good cause. In business how often we are harassed by petty dishonesty or great frauds! Nevertheless, the tide of business sweeps on. Why? Because the good so outweighs the evil. The railroad employee is negligent, and some terrible accident occurs. But the railroad keeps on running all the same; for the public convenience and welfare are the law of its life, and private peril and loss but an occasional episode. By the same rule we support, without misgiving, the Commission, because the good which it certainly does, and the suffering it relieves, in their immensity cover up and put out of sight mistakes, which are incident to all human enterprise, and which are guarded against with all possible vigilance.

But allow all the good which is claimed, and that the good far transcends any possible evil, and then we are met by these further questions: Is such an organization necessary? Cannot Government do the work? And if so, ought not Government to do it?

I might with propriety answer: Suppose that Government ought to do the work and does not, shall we fold our hands and let our soldiers suffer? But the truth is, Government does do its duty. Some persons foolishly exaggerate the work of the Commission. They talk as though it were the only salvation of the wounded, as though the Government let everything go, and that, if the Commission and kindred societies did not step in, there would not be so much as a wreck of our army left. Such talk is simply preposterous. The Commission, considered as a free, spontaneous offering of a loyal people to the cause of our common country, is a wonderful enterprise. The Commission, standing ready to supply any deficiency, to remedy any defect, and to meet any unforeseen emergency, has done a good work that cannot be forgotten. But, compared with what Government expends upon the sick, its resources are nothing. I have not the figures at hand, though I have seen them; and it is hardly too much to say that, where the society has doled out a penny, the Government has lavished a pound.

No sane defender, therefore, of this charity supports it on any such ground as that it is the principal benefactor of the soldier. The Commission alone could no more support our hospitals than it could the universe. But the homely adage, "It is best to have two strings to your bow," applies wonderfully to the case. In practical life men act upon this maxim. They like to have an adjunct to the best-working machinery, a sort of reserved power. Every sensible person sees that our mail arrangements furnish to the whole people admirable facilities. Nevertheless, we like to have an express, and occasionally to send letters and packages by it. When the children are sick, there is nothing so good as the advice of the trusted family physician and the unwearied care of the mother. Yet when the physician has done his work and gone his way, and when the mother is worn out by days of anxiety and nights of watching, we deem it a great blessing if there is a kind neighbor who will come in, not to assume the work, but to help it on a little. The Commission, looking at the hospitals and the armies from a different point of view, sees much that another overlooks, and in an emergency, when all help is too little, brings fresh aid that is a priceless blessing. To the plain, substantial volume of public appropriations it adds the beautiful supplement of private benefactions. That is all that it pretends to do.

There are some special reflections that bear upon the point which we are considering. This war was sprung upon an unwarlike people. The officers of Government, when they entered upon their work, had no thought of the gigantic burdens which have fallen upon their shoulders. Since the war began Government, like every body else, has had to learn new duties, and to learn them amid the stress and perplexity of a great conflict. And, among other things, it has been obliged, in some respects, to recast its medical regulations to meet the prodigious enlargement of its medical work. Beyond a doubt, much help, which, on account of this imperfection of the medical code itself, or of the inexperience of many who administered it, was needed by our hospitals at the commencement of the war, is not needed now, and much help that is needed now may not, if the war lasts, be needed in the future. But it takes time to move the machinery of a great state. And when any change is to become the permanent law of public action, it ought to take both time and thought to effect it. You do not wish to alter and realter the framework of a state or of a state's activity as you would patch up a ruinous old house. If you work at all in any department, you should wish to work on a massive, well-considered plan, so that what you do may last. It is not likely, therefore, that, in the great field of suffering which the war has laid open to us, the public ministries will either be so quickly or so perfectly adjusted as to make private ministries a superfluity.

Neither do we reflect enough upon the limitations of human power. We think sometimes of Government as a great living organism of boundless resources. But, after all, in any department of state, what plans, what overlooks, what vitalizes, is one single human mind. And it is not easy to get minds anywhere clear enough and capacious enough for the large duties. It is easy to obtain men who can command a company well. It is not difficult to find those who can control efficiently a regiment. There

are many to whom the care of five thousand men is no burden; a few who are adequate to an army corps. But the generals who can handle with skill a hundred thousand men, and make these giant masses do their bidding, are the rare jewels in war's diadem. Even so is it in every department of life. It is perhaps impossible to find a mind which can sweep over the whole field of our medical operations, and prepare for every emergency, and avoid every mistake; not because all men are unfaithful or incapable, but because there must be a limit to the most capacious intellect. Looking simply at the structure of the human mind, we might have foreseen, what facts have amply demonstrated, that in a war of such magnitude as that which we are now waging there always must be room for an organization like the Sanitary Commission to do its largest and noblest work.

But, above and beyond all such reflections, there are great national and patriotic considerations which more than justify, yea, demand, the existence of our war charities. Allowing that the outward comfort of the soldier (and who would grant it?) might be accomplished just as well in some other way,—allowing that in a merely sanitary aspect the Government could have done all that voluntary organizations have undertaken, and have done it as well as they or or better than they,—even then we do not allow for a moment that what has been spent has been wasted. What is the Sanitary Commission, and what are kindred associations, but so many bonds of love and kindness to bind the soldier to his home, and to keep him always a loyal citizen in every hope and in every heart-throb? This is the influence which we can least of all afford to lose. He must have been blind who did not see at the outset of the war that, beyond the immediate danger of the hour, there were other perils. We were trying the most tremendous experiment that was ever tried by any people. Out of the most peaceful of races we were creating a nation of soldiers. In a few months where there seemed to be scarcely the elements of martial strength, we were organizing an army which was to be at once gigantic and efficient. Who could calculate the effect of such a swift change? The questions many a patriotic heart might have asked were these: When this wicked rebellion is ended, when these myriads of our brethren whose lives have been bound up in that wondrous collective life, the life of a great army, shall return to their quiet homes by the hills and streams of New England, or on the rolling prairies of the West, will they be able to merge their life again in the simple life of the community out of which they came? Will they find content at the plough, by the loom, in the workshop, in the tranquil labors of civil life? Can they, in short, put off the harness of the soldier, and resume the robe of the citizen? Many a one could have wished to say to every soldier, as he went forth to the war, "Remember that, if God spares your life, in a few months or a few years you will come back, not officers, not privates, but sons and husbands and brothers, for whom some home is waiting and some human heart throbbing. Never forget that your true home is not in that fort beside those frowning cannon, not on that tented field amid the glory and power of military array, but that it nestles beneath yonder hill, or stands out in sunshine on some fertile plain. Remember that you are a citizen yet, with every instinct, with every sympathy, with every interest, and with every duty of a citizen."

Can we overestimate the influence of these associations, of these Soldiers' Aid Societies, rising up in every city and village, in producing just such a state of mind, in keeping the soldier one of us, one of the people? Five hundred thousand hearts following with deep interests his fortunes,—twice five hundred thousand hands laboring for his comfort,—millions of dollars freely lavished to relieve his sufferings,—millions more of tokens of kindness and good-will going forth, every one of them a message from the home to the camp: what is all this but weaving a strong network of alliance between civil and military life, between the citizen at home and the citizen soldier? If our army is a remarkable body, more pure, more clement, more patriotic than other armies,—if our soldier is everywhere and always a true-hearted citizen,—it is because the army and soldier have not been cast off from public sympathy, but cherished and bound to every free institution and every peaceful association by golden cords of love. The good our Commissions have done in this respect cannot be exaggerated; it is incalculable.

Nor should we forget the influence they have had on ourselves,—the reflex influence which they have been pouring back into the hearts of our people at home, to quicken their patriotism. We often say that the

sons and brothers are what the mothers and sisters make them. Can you estimate the electric force which runs like an irresistible moral contagion from heart to heart in a community all of whose mothers and daughters are sparing that they may spend, and learning the value of liberty and country by laboring for them? It does not seem possible, that, amid the divers interests and selfish schemes of men, we ever could have sustained this war, and carried it to a successful issue, had it not been for the moral cement which these wide-spread philanthropic enterprises have supplied. Every man who has given liberally to support the Commission has become a missionary of patriotism; every woman who has cut and made the garments and rolled the bandages and knit the socks has become a missionary. And so the country has been full of missionaries, true-hearted and loyal, pleading, "Be patient, put up with inconveniences, suffer exactions, bear anything, rather than sacrifice the nationality our fathers bequeathed to us!" And if our country is saved, it will be in no small degree because so many have been prompted by their benevolent activity to take a deep personal interest in the struggle and in the men who are carrying on the struggle.

These national and patriotic influences are the crowning blessings which come in the train of the charities of the war; and they constitute one of their highest claims to our affection and respect. The unpatriotic utterances which in these latter days so often pain our ears, the weariness of burdens which tempt so many to be ready to accept anything and to sacrifice anything to be rid of them, admonish us that we need another uprising of the people and another re-birth of patriotism; and they show us that we should cherish more and more everything which fosters noble and national sentiments. And when this war is over, and the land is redeemed, and we come to ask what things have strengthened us to meet and overcome our common peril, may we not prophesy that high among the instrumentalities which have husbanded our strength, and fed our patriotism, and knit more closely the distant parts of our land and its divided interests, will be placed the United States Sanitary Commission?

To Ticknor and Fields, publishers of *Atlantic Monthly*, our readers are indebted for the foregoing valuable article.

LETTER FROM NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

BY C. B. RUGGLES.

March 1, 1865.

THE GRAVES OF THE DEAD.

I report the following in regard to my work on the battle-field of Nashville, during the past few weeks. Early in January my attention was called to the bodies of the heroes of this battle, by many persons coming here from the North in search of the remains of departed friends. One man, a Mr. Bracken, from St. Paul, Minnesota, was here for several weeks, searching for the grave of his brother. After visiting the regiment, now lying at Eastport, of which his brother was a member, and getting directions from the men who buried him, he was at last successful in finding the place of his burial, although some wanton hand had removed the head-board and every trace of the grave. While aiding Mr. B. in his search, I made a record of the locality of every grave which we could find with the names on the head-boards, whenever there were any. These graves were scattered over a large extent of territory, from the Charlotte to beyond the Franklin pike; in yards and gardens, near houses, by the road-side, in meadows and tillage lands, in the woods, by fences, wherever the poor boys had chanced to fall —except the graves of negro soldiers and a few of the whiter, but not otherwise nobler heroes. The negroes, some fifty in number, were buried in one trench, near the Overton Hill, and another trench, in front of Compton's Hill, holds fifteen Minnesota boys. The list of names from the head-boards, enabled several to find the graves of their friends quite easily.

A BENEDICTION.

One man, from a town in N. Y., came to a surgeon in one of the hospitals here, and asked his aid in finding the grave of his friend. The surgeon, in his perplexity, came to the Sanitary Commission, and to his surprise was informed where the body could be found. The hearty "God bless the Sanitary Commission" which was his expression of thanks, amply repaid me for many a hard ride in collecting the list.

A CLERGYMAN'S SON.

A clergyman, from Iowa, came for the body of his son; and although he was buried without a head-board, we were enabled by knowing the position of the regiment in the charge, and by accounts which the father had from his comrades, to find the grave at

once. The above illustrate several instances of the kind.

REMOVAL OF THE DEAD.

As the spring opened, and preparations were being made to till the land, it was evident that many of the graves, if the bodies were permitted to remain on the field, must soon be obliterated; and also those near the houses would soon be removed by the occupants. The head-boards in several instances had already been destroyed; therefore, I determined to make an effort for the removal of all the bodies to the Soldiers' Cemetary, where the graves could be well marked, and monuments erected over their last resting places, if friends desire. Besides, in the removal we could examine the bodies of the "unknown," and perhaps be able to answer some of the many inquiries which are received here, for friends who were last heard of before the battle of Nashville.

A statement of the case was made to General Miller, commander of the post, who fully sympathized with the project, and immediately made an arrangement with Mr. Cornelius, the government undertaker, to remove the bodies of all Union soldiers, under the superintendence of the Sanitary Commission. The work is now going on, some 50 bodies have already been removed, and in one or two weeks it will be completed. The bodies are taken up, and a record is made of everything which will help friends to recognize them. I select a few names from the record, to illustrate.

RECORDS OF UNKNOWN.

Unknown Soldier.—Brown hair, full beard, cavalry man, shot in side by shell, five feet eight inches high, aged about 22, buried to the left of Hillsboro' pike, near J. Compton's, body covered with tent cloth, a gum blanket near grave was marked W. Hall or Hale, 100 O. V. I. Number of grave, 12,274.

Unknown Officer.—Buried beside lane leading to Casmon's house. Officer's blouse, staff buttons, five feet five inches high, light hair, heavy moustache, small goatee, rest of face smooth, checked muffler about the neck, buried in box, reported by negroes to have died the night of the 15th of December, and to have been buried by a friend, who called him Captain. Number of grave, 12,275.

THE WIFE.

J. Henry.—Eighth Wisconsin, Co. I. Buried near Castleman's place. Head-board was marked with his wife's address, viz:—Mrs. J. Henry, Viroqua, Vernon County, Wisconsin. Number of grave, 12,276.

Each body as it is taken up is placed in a neat coffin, the same as those used in burying from the hospitals, and laid in a seperate grave, in a square set apart for the Nashville heroes. The graves are numbered in order with all others buried from the hospitals. I think the number of bodies will not much exceed two hundred. When this work at Nashville is completed we hope to get the same done at Franklin.

A request has already been sent to General Thomas for the order, but his action is not yet known.

LETTERS FROM WILMINGTON, N. C.

BY T. W. FOSTER.

February 27, 1865

I have the honor to report the workings of the Sanitary Commission in the Army of the Ohio, Department of North Carolina, during the month of February, 1865.

On February the 8th, I arrived at Fort Fisher with the large supply of goods that was shipped from City Point on the 2d. Through the kindness of Capt. Lamb, A. Q. M., I got the whole supply at the station during the afternoon.

HOW IT WORKS.

On the 9th, 10th, and 11th I went around to every regiment in the field, leaving each regiment its portion of paper and envelopes, and at the same time giving the regiments an order for dried fruit, according to their aggregate strength, which was highly appreciated by officers and men, as some had been sixty and even ninety days without vegetables.

On the nights of the 11th and 13th, the 24th corps was ordered up the beach, about fifteen miles. I followed them, returning in the morning, and as no wagons were allowed to go, I packed my mule, so as to be on hand if any sanitary stores should be wanted.

THE ADVANCE.

Dr. Washburn thanked me kindly for being on the ground, as transportation was so limited. On the 12th, General Terry moved his whole force about two miles in advance of the old works, thus bringing his outer line under the rebel breastworks. The colored division was in advance; our casualties were light. I followed up the army Field Hospital with supplies, giving the wounded milk punch, and clean clothing before go-

ing to the rear, particularly those who had suffered amputation.

The wounded were sent to the base hospital, some five miles distant, in army wagons; and on their arrival they were well cared for by Mr. Adams; he deserves much credit for the manner in which he distributed milk punch, clothing, &c.

On the morning of the 19th, at 1 o'clock, A.M., I received a request to accompany the troops that were to cross the river. I loaded my cart with shirts, drawers, socks, tea, milk, canned beef, whiskey, &c., &c.; during the day there were 19 wounded and 1 killed. The hospital had no transportation except what men could carry on stretchers, so you will readily see that all the wounded would get was what the Sanitary agents could furnish them.

ON THE RIVER.

After the wounded were all taken care of, I secured a sail boat to run stores up the river, as they were needed. As the cart would get empty, I filled it from the boat, moving with the army up the river, which served as a base.

RECEPTION BY PRISONERS.

On the 22nd, about 10 o'clock A.M., I entered Wilmington with the troops, who marched up the streets to the buildings now occupied by our captured soldiers. There was a scene that no language that I can write can express; feelings of sympathy were aroused in all for the poor fellows, and indignation against those who are responsible for their starvation. The next thought that seemed to enter the mind was, what can the Sanitary do for the poor fellows? Many would look at the little flag on the cart so heavily loaded, and say, "God bless the Sanitary." It was here I left the column and commenced distributing clothing, &c.

I gave the cooks beef-stock to make up at once, for men that had not tasted meat or soup for three months. Tea and milk for supper was a great treat for the poor boys.

Mr. Adams has not as yet arrived from Fort Fisher. I have not heard from you or the supply that I ordered on the 11th inst. I am in hopes to hear from them, and hear that a large and general supply is on the way.

Three thousand prisoners arrived here this day.

March 5, 1865.

I have the honor to make a report of the work of the Commission, in this department, since the capture of Wilmington.

THE EXCHANGE.

About ten days ago our exchanged prisoners commenced coming in. I was notified by the medical director of the fact, several hours beforehand, and knowing their condition I immediately pressed ten colored men to work, making fires and drawing water.

By the time the first boat arrived, we had some 90 gallons of hot milk-punch, which we distributed to them as they landed; this has been done with every boat that has arrived, and before leaving they were furnished with more for their use on the journey. We have, since the 22d of February, furnished all the hospitals with milk-punch, ready made, for those who required it; and these are not a few. The hospitals are all full, and about 1,500 men are in the railroad depot; the majority of them are almost starved to death. We have them drawn up in line, with cups in their hands, and then send three or four men with buckets, who pass along with the punch, giving each man his portion. Time after time has the Commission been heartily cheered by these starved, ragged, abused, but brave soldiers.

There was a great demand for clothing, but owing to our limited supply, and the great number of calls, many were refused who really needed it; but they did complain when told there was none.

On the 21st inst. I followed up the army on the right bank of the river, with a strong mule and cart, heavily loaded with beef-stock, milk, tea, sugar, crackers, farina, shirts, drawers, socks, rags, bandages, &c., &c., and distributed them from time to time to the best advantage.

I think the Commission has done a vast amount of good in this department, with the quantity of stores furnished, and I have been aided very much by the following articles, which have been turned over to me:—22 barrels liquor, 16 of whiskey, 6 of rum, 7 barrels of dried apples, one half barrel of sugar, 1 barrel of syrup, 1 barrel of fish, 50 lbs. hams, 50 lbs. of crackers. These were given to me by the provost-marshal, who has promised to send me two or three cases of tobacco.

I hope to hear from you soon, and see a good load of stores.

"NEW YORK OBSERVER" AND TWENTY FACTS.

The following article, from the New York *Observer*, was noticed in the last number of the BULLETIN. The reply there given cannot be admitted into the columns of the *Observer* without the publication of the following in the BULLETIN. We cheerfully afford the needed space to the *Observer*, and wish our readers to compare the two articles and judge for themselves. The question of circulating religious reading in the army has been discussed now for four years, in all its bearings, and a few facts have been established, which we prefix to the Observer's article, as follows:

1. The soldiers must have reading matter.

2. The Government does not supply it.

3. The soldiers cannot procure it themselves.

4. The people must furnish it.

5. The people must furnish it through some voluntary agency, emenating from themselves.

6. The first agency that appeared in the field, as the expression of the people, was the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

7. This agency comprehended the whole work, and as the war progressed, it enlarged its sphere of operations; and has received, all the time, the sympathy and support of the people.

8. It has always been the office of the Sanitary Commission to furnish supplies of all needed kinds, to all the army in all places, where the Government required its help.

9. It has been busily engaged doing this work of distributing supplies, and reading matter of various kinds, from churches, and publishing houses, and benevolent individuals, and still has the esteem and confidence of the people and the army, as well as the encouragement and aid of the Government.

10. A new organization, called the Christian Commission, came into the field, six months after the United States Sanitary Commission was appointed by President Lincoln, and assumed the work of collecting and distributing religious reading.

11. This Commission, assuming the name "Christian" as a distinctive title, claimed to represent the Christian sentiment of the people, and to be the judge, for the army, as to what was Christian reading matter, and act accordingly.

12. The Christian people did not withdraw their support from the Sanitary Commission, but were as zealous as ever in offering their contributions for its support.

13. The Sanitary Commission proposed to form a union between the two organizations, so that they should act in harmony with each other, and thus teach foreign nations, that while the American people were struggling for their perpetuity as one nation, they could demonstrate one spirit of true Christian charity and effort in the trying times of their struggle.

14. The Christian Commission refused to accept the offer, and thus failed to confess the broad charity of a common brotherhood in this work.

15. There was thus exhibited to the country the original national organization appointed by the Government, with its new and zealous rival—the first embracing all the people, and covering the wide field of the nation's resources; the second excluding from its communion a large portion of the people, and yet asking from *all* a liberal support.

16. These two organizations are now in the field, both doing the same work.

17. The chief objection to the Sanitary Commission is, that it is broad, comprehensive, and unfettered by ecclesiastical rules.

18. The chief boast of the Christian Commission is, that it excludes from its fellowship all who do not subscribe to certain teachings of religion, which they assert are necesssry to the Christian character.

19. The people perceive and understand the difference, and can afford to go on with their work of supplying the army and helping the Government, without being moved

from their purpose by discussions as to who are, and who are not Christians.

20. That man is a Christian, and that society a Christian society, which does the whole work of Christ in the way of His appointment.

Who will be the judge? Man in his ignorance, or God in his wisdom?

From N. Y. Observer.

SANITARY SUPPLIES FOR SOULS OF SOLDIERS.

From various quarters we receive information of the wide and constant circulation of Universalist and Unitarian tracts in the army, and through the agency of the Sanitary Commission. We speak of it not to find fault, either with those who furnish or those who distribute them. And in making use of the fact to awaken new and larger interest in efforts to give the pure gospel, the real bread of life, to our brave soldiers, we are specially solicitous to avoid the suspicion of a desire to censure those who do not believe as we do, for seeking to persuade others to believe as they do.

Of course we think it evil, and only evil, to put into the hands of any man, especially one who is exposed to the dangers of war, a tract with such teachings as this:

"God is love, and he loves us right through. He loves us here, he will love us yonder. He loves us now, he will love us forever. Death makes no difference with the love of God. When the body is dead, then God takes takes that one good grain that is in us all, and plants it again in better soil than this, and under a kindlier sky, and he will care for us, and see to our growth ferever and forever."

This is from a tract for a sick soldier, one of a series of army tracts, published by the American Unitarian Association, and distributed by the Sanitary Commission, in the hospitals of the army, from the Potomac to the mouth of the Mississippi. The tract is full of the doctrine of Universalism, and it is read by hundreds and thousands of sick and dying men. A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* of the Unitarian Association says of this tract: "Boys in the hospitals at Frederick have told me that they have read and *re-read it five or six times.*" In the same number of the *Journal* the relief agent of the Sanitary Commission, at Newbern, says: "I wish I had a large invoice of your army tracts and the *Soldier's Companion*, for distribution in the camps and hospitals of this department. Your publications would be gladly received here, and would do great good. I am in a position to give them an extensive circulation." Again, at Washington, Rev. F. A. Knapp, agent of the Sanitary Commission there, acknowledging a second box of 4,000 tracts, says: "Allow me to thank the Association through you, and for the Sanitary Commission, for this liberal supply of reading (and singing) matter. Although so large, it will be distributed within ten days at the furthest, and give aid and comfort to a great many suffering soldiers. We shall then be ready and glad to receive again of your bounty for these poor fellows, who ask for books as if craving for food." The agents of the Sanitary Commission not only distribute, but beg for these supplies of poison to give to sick soldiers. We do not object to their distributing what is sent to them under their rule to circulate *all* the books and tracts sent to them; but we suggest that it is carrying the thing a little too far, when their agents, who are paid for another work, make imploring appeals for Universalist tracts to distribute in the hospitals of the army.

In another place the publishers of these tracts say: "We have sent large quantities of the tracts to the Sanitary Commission, at New York, Washington, Newbern, N. C., Louisville, Ky., Evansville, Ind., and St. Louis, Mo.; and to hospitals and regiments at Baltimore, Annapolis, and Frederick, Md.; Philadelphia, New Orleans, and other places too numerous to mention." And their army agent writes: "I am permitted to state that it has just been decided by the managers of the Sanitary Commission to offer to distribute impartially for all denominations whatever religious reading matter they may supply. *I took especial pains to ascertain by my intercourse with the officers of the Commission* whether it would be advisable to avail ourselves of this offer, and I am satisfied that it would, (second of course to the method already described.) *This gives us the means of distributing an unlimited amount.*"

There are two points toward which it is proper for the friends of the Sanitary Commission and the friends of the gospel of the New Testament to turn their attention, in connection with the facts we have now recited.

1. If the Sanitary Commission under-

takes to supply religious instruction for the army, it will distribute whatever is committed to its care for that purpose. It cannot be expected to discriminate against books containing Roman Catholic, Universalist, or even rationalistic and infidel sentiments. There is an agency here in New York for the publication of infidel tracts, and they have been cunningly mixed up with packages of Evangelical tracts, and so smuggled into the camps and hospitals. The Sanitary Commission, with Rev. Dr. Bellows, Unitarian, at its head, cannot decline to send these or any other publications entrusted to them. And it is worthy of inquiry if this was the service for which the Sanitary Commission is instituted and supported by the contributions of the patriotic and benevolent? Every man who gives a dollar to its funds aids in supporting those agents who send their appeals for Universalist books and tracts, and then distribute them among the soldiers. We are free to express our deep and solemn conviction that the Sanitary Commission should decline altogether the work of circulating religious reading, rather than be made the agent for the spread of those works which the great body of its supporters believe to be destructive to the souls of men. If it does work for one sect, it must for all; and, as there is no necessity for its aid in this department of labor, it is worthy of its consideration whether impartial duty to its patrons does not demand the expenditure of its strength upon the appropriate work for which it was instituted, leaving the distribution of tracts, good or bad, to other agencies formed for that purpose.

Another point is this: If the mighty agency of the Sanitary Commission is employed in distributing Universalist tracts to "an unlimited amount" among our sick and dying soldiers, is it not the duty of evangelical Christians to put forth vastly augmented efforts to give the knowledge of the way of life by Jesus Christ to them who are ready to perish? Hundreds and thousands of soldiers have been converted by these efforts, and the intelligence we have from the army is full of encouragement to increase and extend them. While those who teach the soldier that all men, good or bad, will be saved, are sowing tares, let us who believe that repentance and faith are essential to the soul's salvation, be up and doing with our might to give the gospel to the army.

LETTER FROM DOCTOR AGNEW.

WILMINGTON, N. C.,
March 20, 1865, 11 P.M.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:—I am now writing from the steamer *Chase*, at the dock at Wilmington. We left Morehead City at 12 M., yesterday, reached the bar off Wilmington at 10 30 P.M., and came to anchor to await daylight and high tides, at 11 A.M., we crossed the bar, passing Fort Fisher, and reached Wilmington at 1 P.M. We immediately sought for Mr. Foster, and found him exhausted from hard and continuous labor. He had dispensed the last of his stores yesterday afternoon at 4 30, our arrival, therefore, being most fortunate. I saw at once General J. C. Abbott, commandant of the Post, and Captain Lamb, Post Quartermaster, and obtained a wharf and storehouse for our cargo. Dr. J. C. Dalton immediately explored the town, and ascertained that about 1,500 returned prisoners and 2,400 sick and wounded from Generals Sherman and Terry's forces were still here in hospitals, the former in a condition impossible to describe, and the latter needing also many of our supplies. The medical officers were delighted to hear of our arrival, and expressed the warmest thanks, in advance, for the stores brought. General J. R. Hawley, commanding the district, at once, upon hearing of our arrival, sent an orderly on board of our vessel, with a note expressing his gladness at our arrival, and a warm sense of the value of the supplies of food and clothing which we had bought. To-morrow morning at 6 o'clock Captain Lamb will send a detail of 50 men to unload our vessel, and Mr. Foster, our agent, will receive the stores and issue them at once. Every thing we have will be immediately used. We only left about one-fourth of the cargo at Morehead, and I cannot tell you how thankful I am that we did so. We could not obtain any reliable information at Morehead of the condition of things here, and hence our bringing so large a portion of the cargo was most providential.

The returned prisoners sent into Wilmington numbered nearly 9,000. About 7,000 of the less famished have gone North. General Abbott, who received our poor fellows in the exchange, has just told me that language would utterly fail to describe their condition. Filth, rags, nakedness, starvation were personified in their condition. Many of the men were in a state of mind

resembling idiocy, unable to tell their names, and lost to all sense of modesty, unconscious of their nakedness and personal condition. Some of them moving about on their hands and knees, unable to stand upon their gangrenous feet, looking up like hungry dogs, beseeching the observer for a bite of bread or a sup of water. Some of them hitched along on their hands and buttocks, pushing gangrenous feet literally reduced to bone and shreds before them. Others leaned upon staves, and glared from sunken eyes through the parchment-like slits of their open eyelids into space, without having the power to fix an intelligent gaze upon passing objects. Others giggled and smirked and hobbled like starved idiots; while some adamantine figures walked erect, as though they meant to move the skeleton homewards so long as vitality enough remained to enable them to do so. To see the men who remain here in hospital would move a heart as hard and cold as marble. Their condition is that of men who have for months suffered chronic starvation. Their arms and legs look like coarse reeds with bulbous joints. Their faces look as though a skilful taxidermist had drawn tanned skin over the bare skull, and then placed false eyes in the orbital cavities. They defy description. It would take a pen expert in the use of every term known to the anatomist and the physician to begin to expose their fearful condition. May God, in his infinite mercy, forgive the creatures who have done this horrid thing.

Everything we have with us will be needed, so that I shall not have much, to leave at Morehead on my return. We propose, through Dr. Buzzel and the hearty co-operation of Generals Hawley and Abbott, and Captains Lamb and Hopkins, to commence to-morrow to clothe and feed these sufferers. We shall issue about 4,000 suits of woolen clothing, and feed every sufferer for at least three weeks to come. The surgeons have promised to issue our tomatoes, beef stock, condensed milk, chocolate, soft crackers, onions and potatoes as freely as the starved men can eat them. They now have army rations, and such food as the hospital fund can purchase in this bare market, but many of them cannot muster physical power enough to bite a hard cracker, or stomach to digest beef or pork. They must be fed with nourishing broths and vegetable food for a long time, before they can be moved North. Many, alas! will go to the cemetery to lengthen the lines of graves, now so long.

Wilmington is very, very dirty; its alleys and back-yards are as bad as they can be, and no one who has not been in the South can form an idea of what this means. The streets swarm with refugees, 15,000 black refugees, and about 5,000 white ones. Almost all of these people occupy one dead level of poverty. The negroes can work for the Quartermaster and get rations and pay. About 4,000 white refugees are fed daily by a local relief committee from stores of corn meal and rice, while all draw rations from the post commissary, of pork and beans. Such a scene I have never before witnessed. Now, a few words in regard to supplies. I cannot yet say, in whole, what will be needed here additional, but we need some helpers for Mr. Foster, who is overworked. I would propose to have Mr. Knapp run down here at once. Many details in the conduct of the future relief work will demand his skilled labor. Lime is needed to disinfect the city, say 500 bbls., in the proportion of 150 bbls. of chloride of lime, to 350 of unslacked lime. Ice is needed in the hospitals. Lemons greatly needed, they should be sound ones, or else portable lemonade would be better. Slippers are needed, say 1,000 pairs. Bed-ticks, say 1,500; also shoes, 1,000. I write as I think, and therefore may prolong my letter and make it more obscure than it should be.

I shall unload the *Chase* to-morrow, and dispatch her to New York, direct, via Beaufort, N. C., if her coal will carry her there, if not, to Fortress Monroe, to coal, and thence to New York. She draws too much water for us. The *Uncas* is a better boat for our purposes as she can run to Newbern via Hatteras inlet, and also over the bar to Wilmington. My being compelled to lighten the *Chase*, at Beaufort, caused three days' detention. It is not safe to send a steamer to these parts on such errands as we run, drawing more than eight and one-half feet for Newbern, or twelve for Beaufort, or ten and one-half for Wilmington. Send, to repeat, Mr. Knapp to Wilmington with an assistant or two, and answer all Dr. Page's requisitions. Send very few, if any, potatoes or onions. Send it to the committee at New York after you have read it. Nothing from Dr. Marsh later than my last. Dr. Page is deserving of our highest esteem and confidence.

Supplies sent to North Carolina by steamer Chase, March 11, 1865, to be drawn upon for the relief of exchanged Union prisoners, and the sick of General Sherman's army at Wilmington.

Blankets	1750	Sour-kraut, bbls.	166½
Flannel drawers	2400	Tomatoes, cans	12000
Flannel shirts	2400	Condensed milk, cans	12000
Knit shirts	2604	Condensed coffee, cans.	92
Knit drawers	2504	Ground coffee, lbs.	1875
Wool half-hose	6000	Crackers, bbls.	479
Cotton shirts	211	Maizena, cases	40
Towels	3934	Corn starch, cases	20
Handkerchiefs	1008	Chocolate, lbs.	3300
Shoes, pairs	60	Bourbon whiskey, btls.	1320
Beef-stock, lbs.	2040	Stock ale, bbls.	10
Onions, bbls.	507	Lemon syrup, doz. btls.	8
Potatoes, bbls.	520	Smoking tobacco, dozen papers	28
Pickled tomatoes, gals.	1467	Tobacco, lbs.	50
Pickled onions, gals.	3162½	Thread, lbs.	132
Pickles, cucumbers, bbls	194	Pen-holders, gross	8
Needles	12000	Pencils, gross	4
Writing paper, reams	270	Ink, doz.	24
Envelopes	51500	Ink-stands, doz.	12
Pens, gross	42		

Also chloroform, opium, cushions, crutches, haversacks, candles, soap, suspenders, combs, head-posts, bed-pans, urinals, stationary, cooking utensils, tin-cups, &c.

PETERSBURGH AND RICHMOND.

That the public may be relieved from anxiety with respect to the provision made for the comfort of our sick and wounded at Richmond, Petersburg, and City Point, the Sanitary Commission would say that they had on Friday last an abundant supply of all things necessary on the spot, and that since then two vessels loaded with supplies, in addition, have reached City Point, and others will be dispatched.

The Commission, with a view to the present emergency, has provided a full corps of agents, both with the army and at the hospitals at or near City Point, where most of the wounded are brought.

Two gentlemen of the Commission, from this city, visited the army last week, and found every preparation made for the emergency.

In addition to the heavy stock at City Point and with the army, the following articles have reached there since Friday last.

Respectfully yours,
R. M. Lewis.
General Superintendent of Philadelphia Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Shirts, woolen	10000	Suspenders, pairs	1200
Shirts, cotton hospital	2657	Blankets	1000
Drawers, woolen, pairs	10000	Combs, fine, gross	2200
Drawers, cotton, pairs	2000	Blackb'y cordial, btls.	1200
Socks, woolen, pairs	5000	Crackers, lbs.	200
Towels	20000	Beef and mutton, cans.	1800
Handkerchiefs	11000	Cups, tin	5000
Comfort bags, housewives, &c.	1125	Pails, wooden	140
Slippers, pairs	1500	Condensed milk	9600
		Corn starch, lbs.	4000
Maizena lbs.	2000	Pickles, galls.	1433
Farina, lbs.	4500	Pickles, jars	100
Dried apples, bbls.	20	Old linen, lbs.	7
Camphor mixtures, gr.	5	Jamaica ginger, galls.	50
White thread, lbs.	25	Sugar, bbls.	20
Black thread, lbs.	24	Soap, castile boxes	20
Yarn, lbs.	50	Soap, brown family, boxes	40
Tin dippers, with long handles	200	Candles, boxes	20
Combs, coarse, gross	2200	Knives and forks, gr.	12
Chocolate, lbs.	2000	Cushions	2000
Bay rum, btls.	500	Plates, tin, gross	6
Crutches, pairs	2000	Cond. egg (dessicated)	200
Con'd lemonade, boxes.	70	Head rests	50
Apple butter, galls.	75	Plugs tobacco, lbs.	2000
Lemons, boxes,	20	Smoking tobacco, lbs.	2000
Ale, btls.	1400	Brooms	36
Pillows	300	Tin pails, small	100
Fruit asst'd, dried, bbls.	1000	Tobacco pipes, boxes	25

And a large amount of stationery and other useful articles.—*Philadelphia Papers, April 5, 1865.*

LETTER FROM PATRICK STATION.

BY J. HENRY DAVIS.

March 26, 1865.

Early yesterday morning the troops were under arms and in motion. Orders were given to the hospitals of the 2d Corps to pack up and to be ready to move at a moment's notice. The 2d Corps station, Sanitary Commission, were instructed to pack up and move with the 3d Division. The surplus stock, large tent and stove, were sent down to the Point under charge of Mr. Peck. The two wagons belonging to this station were loaded and everything got ready for a march. The 5th Corps station did not move, the 5th Corps hospital not receiving orders to pack up; but Mr. Barton, in charge of the station, had his wagons packed, and could have moved at short notice.

Before sunrise of the 25th, the enemy made a sortie on front of the 9th Corps, surprised and captured a fort, turning its guns upon our troops. The enemy were successful for a time, but our brave men were soon rallied and forced the enemy to retire, after suffering severe loss. Our loss was slight, in all not over 400.

The 2d Corps began before daylight to feel the ememy's lines, on their front. The 3d Division commenced at 3 o'clock to skirmish with the rebel line, which was responded to by the enemy with spirit; the 6th Corps also commenced picket firing. This amusement was kept up all day, varied by occasional discharge of heavy guns.

During this time the rebels had strengthened their skirmish and picket line, until it became a strong line of battle. About 5 in the afternoon the 3d Division of the 2d Corps were ordered to charge the rebel lines, which they did most gallantly, capturing many

prisoners, and the enemy's old picket line, which was held by Alabama and Georgia troops. The 1st Divison also charged along their lines, capturing many rebels. The official list of the wounded foots up to about 100 killed, and between 5 and 600 wounded, and perhaps 50 missing. This loss is between the 3d and 1st Divisions. The 2d Division suffered slightly, their loss being only 40. The 6th Corps also made a charge, capturing 500 prisoners and holding their old picket line. At dusk the building known as General ——'s quarters was fired, and lit up the scene for some hours. The loss of the 6th Corps was between 3 and 400 in all. The 5th Corps were, with the exception of the 1st Division, in reserve, under cover of Fort Fisher, and supporting the 6th Corps. The 1st Division, 5th Corps, were held along the left, on the flank of the 2d Corps; throwing out their skirmish line they found the enemy, engaged him for some time, inflicting some loss upon the enemy, and losing about 50 in all. Mr. Barton is busy looking after the wounded in that direction.

The 6th Corps wounded have all been sent in. Our wounded at this point will be loaded on the cars at 1 o'clock, and sent to the Point. About 1 o'clock yesterday the first load of wounded came into the 3d Division, 2d Corps. I at once gave instructions to make milk punch, which was done and continued far into the night, Up to this time over 100 gallons of punch have been made and given to the sufferers. All about this station have worked well. They have, I am proud to say, done their duty. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Vasser were dispatched to the field with canteens filled with punch, and performed signal service in ministering to the sorrows of our wounded braves.

The 1st Division has been supplied with crackers and many with shirts. On every side we hear the warmest expressions of gratitude to the people of the North, who through the Commission, aid so nobly, remembering their fellow citizens on the battle-field. My supplies, with a few exceptions, are yet ample; my stock of milk, and liquors, and crackers, is getting short. If you will send up 3 cases whiskey, 2 barrels crackers, 3 cases milk, I think I would be be as ready as ever to relieve the wounded. If you could add 2 cases tomatoes, it would be a blessing.

On the whole yesterday was a day of victory. The object was probably to ascertain the strength of the enemy, and keep them in their lines. The official report foots up for this day's work, 3,800 rebel prisoners, 1,200 killed and wounded, rebel loss, low, 5,000. Our loss cannot be over 1,000 or 1,200. All well, but somewhat tired.

"IN PRISON AND YE CAME UNTO ME."

BY GEO. H. RICE.

BOSTON, *March* 23, 1865.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of 21st instant duly received, and this morning the book came to hand. Please accept my warm thanks for the same. It will be read with great pleasure, the more so that I have heard you relate some of the incidents while in camp. The want of mental exercise was that which we suffered for so much. Did I tell you how eagerly the books which reached us from the Sanitary Commission at New Orleans were sought after? If not, you would be pleased to learn with what pleasure we refreshed our memories with the first rudiments of arithmetic, and the various class-readers. No one knows, but those that had felt our wants, how welcome such things were. I confess had I never been a prisoner I should never thought of making such selections; but they are truly welcome, and the Sanitary Commission need have no fear of their not being gratefully received, *everywhere*. It would have done you good to have seen the little groups that got together with a piece of board for a slate, and charcoal for pencil.

From the New Orleans Daily True Delta, March 18.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.

The following letter shows that it is not alone our own gallant soldiers who derive benefits from that great charitable institution, the Sanitary Commission. A subscription is now being taken up among our citizens to aid in replenishing the treasury of the Commission, and with the following statement before them, even persons whose sympathies are with the rebellion will hardly refuse to contribute according to their means:

SHIP ISLAND, MISS., *January* 25, 1865.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, New Orleans, La.:

GENTLEMEN: Serious indisposition, from which I am just convalescing, has prevented my acknowledging your valuable favors at an earlier period. I have during the past

few months received from your hands a large quantity of pickles, pickled cabbage, sauer-kraut, onions, potatoes, shirts, drawers, socks, combs, soap, etc., for the use of the sick and suffering at this post. Nothing could have been more opportune than these gratuities. Besides the large number of persons ordinarily at this station, we have had recently as many as seventeen hundred prisoners of war. These, from long exposure, insufficient food and clothing, and utter neglect of personal cleanliness, were mostly broken down in health, and were as wretched a set of men as were ever assembled together. The diseases prevailing among them were small-pox, measles, scurvy, and a great variety of cutaneous and other contagious affections. Out of the entire number there were not five hundred exempt from disease, and the mortality upon their first arrival amounted to an average of two cases per day. With your prompt assistance, together with that of the Medical Department of the army, we have in a very short time been enabled to change this gloomy aspect. We have been enabled to furnish bedding, clothing, proper diet and cleanliness to men who had long been deprived of these comforts. The sick list among them has decreased from nearly one thousand to less than forty patients, and but three men have died in as many weeks.

Under these circumstances, I cannot too sincerely thank you for the kind assistance you have rendered, nor too highly commend an institution whose good works in the cause of humanity are so palpable and potent.

With much respect, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN H. GIHON, Ass't Surgeon
In Charge of Hospitals at Ship Island, Miss.

ONE HOSPITAL IN SAVANNAH.

BY CHAPLAIN JEREMIAH PORTER.

MARSHALL HOUSE, SAVANNAH, GA., *March* 17, 1865.

I am happy to report that Mrs. Porter has continued her labors in this hospital, unremitted except by a few days of sickness, until the present time. That now our number being reduced from 400 to about 100, and of these only a few that are not recovering, she is anxious to go to Sherman's army as soon as it shall find a new base on the Atlantic, which we trust will be reached before this reaches you.

In the twelve weeks since we arrived here 27 of our white patients have died and 8 colored. All of these were comforted by the sympathetic attentions of Mrs. Porter, as the almoner of the bounties supplied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. Beside preparing light diet and delicacies for the feeble and sick, she has replaced garments worn out or lost on the battle-field and hospitals the following, to individuals who could not purchase, either because out of money or without their descriptive roll: pants, 47 prs.; flannel shirts, 35; vests, 11; woolen drawers, 69; blouses, 14; overcoats, 13; prs. stockings, 20; hats, 20; blankets, 24; prs. shoes, 14. During one month, from Jan. 9th, the opening of the first Sanitary goods in this city, to Feb. 7th, Mrs. Porter received the following supplies, by request of the surgeon in charge, and saw that they were distributed so as to comfort the sick:—Bbls. potatoes, 2; bbls. dried apples, 2; bbls. crackers, 3½; cans tomatoes, 48; cans milk, 45; cans beef stock, 50; papers farina, 62; corn starch, 47; papers gelatine, 6; cans currant jellies, 2; cans extract coffee, 12; bottles Jamaica ginger, 16; bottles bay water, 5; bottles blackberry cordial, 11; bottles raspberry vinegar, 2; prs. pants, 31; blouses, 11; hats, 6; prs. shoes, 6; drawers, 66; shirts, 64; vests, 11; prs. socks, 24.

During the past month our number of sick has been constantly decreasing by return of convalescents to duty in the field; by furlough of the wounded, and by sending the permanently diseased to northern hospitals; and Sherman's army having gone, we are receiving very few new patients, yet we have drawn liberally from the Sanitary rooms.

The gratitude of the patients for these sanitary supplies through our hands has been expressed by multitudes of them. I have always had from the Sanitary writing paper, envelopes, ink, pens and pencils, as well as a rich variety of books and papers, so that intellectual as well as physical wants have been happily supplied. In the hospital chapel, the patients having been removed from it, and it being pleasantly seated, we have had religious meetings each evening for a fortnight of very pleasant religious interest. There has been joy here, as we trust, in heaven, over sinners repenting among convalescents, as well as those who have died trusting in the Saviour.

Among the stores received the past month were two pecks of dried currants and as many dried blackberries. Nothing except the blackberry cordial has comforted so

many sick and contributed so much to the comfort of the emaciated as these berries. Mrs. Porter keeps some of them stewed on hand always, and every one who would be benefited by them is readily supplied. They are much more profitable than jellies, and much more easily brought to the army and kept for use. Call loudly for small fruits dried, and multitudes comforted by them will bless you for it.

A few days since an escaped prisoner from Andersonville from the 111th Illinois, who was captured on the 22d of June last before Atlanta, was brought to our room by two of his own regiment who are now nursing in this hospital. Testifying to his entire truthfulness, and finding him almost destitute of clothing, as he could bring nothing from his prison except what he wore, and having traveled 300 miles in 24 days, he was furnished with a complete outfit: a hat, an overcoat, a pair of pants, a flannel shirt, a pair of drawers, a pair of stockings, shoes he had previously obtained. Doffing his brown cotton, and clad in his Sanitary suit, he hardly retained his personal identity. So I gave him a certificate showing how he was clothed after his long imprisonment and journey to Savannah. He confirms all the terrible reports of Andersonville. He left here for Iowa.

We are highly gratified to see a thousand colored children and adults already gathered into schools in Savannah: while we are pained to visit the hospital for the blacks and find it in a loathsome condition. We have endeavored to see that the sufferers are made more comfortable. In the last two days the few surviving ones are removed to hospital tents, and we hope their wants will now be better supplied.

One or two regiments of colored troops just raised at Charleston have come to garrison this city The inhabitants are horrified at the thought that their own arms are all taken from them and they are to be guarded by armed negroes. Is not this righteous retribution? Who dreamed that our eyes would see these things when Uncle Tom's Cabin was written. Truly has inspiration said: "I work a work in your day which ye will not believe if a man declare it unto you."

LETTER FROM E. L. JONES.

NASHVILLE, *March* 25, 1865.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose my report for the week ending this evening. We are doing a good deal for the hospitals, and with the grateful appreciation of their officers. The large number of patients from the new regiments seems to diminish rather than add to their hospital fund, and they are drawing upon us more largely than heretofore.

There are also more troops in and around the city, and they all want something, so that the total issues make rather large figures, larger than I calculated during the week, as I had on mind the importance of sending as many stores forward to Chattanooga and Knoxville as possible. We have now comparatively few applications that we cannot provide for reasonably well. My remarks in former letters will still apply to the want of bedding, ticks, sheets, quilts, pillow-cases, towels, and handkerchiefs, slippers, eye-shades, and especially rags and bandages,—to canned fruit, condensed milk, and codfish. I have had many applications this week for eggs, wines, and spirits, and cordials, and even whiskey; we have none of these to issue, except in small quantities, none to ship. Everybody wants a few onions, but we have none. Boots, shoes, and hats; once in a while one is a great comfort to a ragged, dirty, and barefooted soldier just escaped from a southern prison or exchanged.

Monday I loaded two cars* for Chattanooga, one with fifty barrels kraut, and the other with seed potatoes, onion setts, &c. I also loaded two cars* for Knoxville direct, same day, with fifty barrels kraut and ninety-four barrels potatoes. The cars are still on the track, though I had the promise of the agent that they should be sent off immediately. The fact is they have not the motive power at their command to move them, but they are daily now expecting engines from the South that will enable them to clear the track again. The pressure upon the road for the transportation of troops and munitions has been tremendous, and could not be interfered with except by the major general in person.

We have received from Cincinnati, this week, 200 barrels potatoes, 50 barrels kraut, 25 barrels cabbage in curry, 25 barrels pickles, and 15 barrels dried apples.

LETTER FROM H. TONE.

CAIRO, *March* 25, 1865.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY.

DEAR SIR—I arrived at Paducah only this morning, having been delayed on the river by heavy winds.

* These cars got off the next day.

By permission of Captain Ernst, A. Q. M., the captain of the *Atlantic* delivered to me at that place all the sanitary stores which were not covered with grain in the hold of the boat, and these, very fortunately, included all the boxes, 160 in number, and forty-nine barrels of crackers and dried apples. Mr. Sutliffe has gone to Eastport with the remainder, to issue whatever is needed, and reship whatever is not needed to Paducah. There is quite a number of sick still at Eastport, notwithstanding the hospital steamer *D. A. Jamany* brought away a full load.

Mrs. Horner arrived from Eastport yesterday morning, and from her I learn that the great cavalry expedition started from there on Tuesday last. Their first objective point is said to be Tuscaloosa. They had a skirmish with the rebels on the afternoon of the first day, and several wounded were sent back. It was anticipated that there would be considerable opposition, and, perhaps, a pitched battle in three or four days, as Forrest is represented as having 8,000 well mounted cavalry, and 4,000 infantry, within that number of day's march of Eastport. At the time she left, General Hatch expressed himself as fearful that the exchange of prisoners having been so long delayed would not be effected.

Mr. Way received your despatch to-day, stating that the *Elnora* would leave Louisville on Saturday night, and directing me not to wait for her. There was no boat for Vicksburg at Paducah to-day, and I presume the *Elnora* will be the first along. Having made all necessary arrangements for forwarding the stores by the first boat, I came on to Cairo to see what was being prepared here, and to have the goods sent on the same boat with the others. I find Mr. Shipman has already sent forward one shipment, and is expecting another from Chicago, which I hope will arrive in time. I will enclose invoices of them if I can get them before the mail closes.

Mr. Johnson will come as directed on the *Elnora*. Mr. Owen has nearly recovered from his illness and will report at Louisville as soon as he is able.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

In the telegrams from San Francisco, dated April 5, we learn that, "arrivals in twenty days from Honolulu bring intelligence of liberal sucscriptions to the U. S. Sanitary Commission and heavy earthquakes." That the subscriptions to the U. S. Sanitary Commission have caused the earthquakes is not probable, and that the earthquakes have not caused the subscriptions is certain; for the large-hearted benevolence of those distant and regenerated Islands—a benevolence based upon principle and impelled by a fervent love for the broad truths of the gospel—is as natural and splendid to their people as is the foliage of their vallies. What grand changes have been wrought by the Good Father since the daysw hen the hero missionaries first set foot upon the coral shore. "A nation has been born in a day;" and that Pacific nation, born from out heathenism into Christianity, aids with its wealth in bearing to the wounded upon Atlantic battle-fields and the captive in the barbarous prisons of the Gulf, both temporal and spiritual benefits.

"Mine eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord."

FANS FOR ARMY HOSPITALS.

The following letter from Dr. MacGowan has been received by Dr. Bellows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March* 21, 1865.

H. W. BELLOWS, D.D.,
President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

REV. AND DEAR SIR: So varied are the functions which are performed by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, that those who have plans for promoting the comfort of disabled soldiers naturally submit them to your association for trial. To the consideration of a proposal having that end in view, I have the honor of inviting your attention.

The warm season is approaching, when musquetoe netting is resorted to in our hospitals for protecting patients from the annoyance of those enemies of repose. But there are times the netting almost stifles the sufferer, who, it may be, is in special need of a current of fresh air. He needs not only a contrivance which shall keep musquetoes away by night, but which shall constantly ward off from his wound the attacks of flies. These objects, together with fresh air, are obtainable easy enough by having relays of attendants for fanning the patient. But no hospital, public or private, can command the requisite number of attendants. The end can be attained, however, by a very simple contrivance, by the suspension of a punkah from the ceiling of ward, having a palm leaf fan, or merely a handkerchief waving gently over each bed.

If properly constructed a single attendant can fan the entire side of a ward—say forty beds. As in some cases fanning might not be allowable, and in all the operation would require temporary suspension, the fans should be easily removable at pleasure. The labor of drawing the punkahs could be performed by men who have been deprived of an arm or a leg, although it is likely that when the attention of our inventors is called to the subject we shall have plans for accomplishing the object by a simple and noiseless piece of machinery. It were superfluous to undertake to show the need that exists for some such contrivance. Any one who has been in a hospital on a summer's day either as patient or visitor, will admit that this is a desideratum, and such is the ingenuity of our countrymen, that you have only to make known the want and you shall surely have it supplied. Now for my proposal: Offer an honorarium for the best contrivance for fanning a long row of beds, to be tested in the nearest military hospital to your headquarters, and, my word for it, we shall soon have a contrivance which in all future time will be considered an indispensable part of hospital appliances. Be prompt, that the thousands who are destined soon to be prostrated by fever, or suppurating wounds, may have their sufferings ameliorated by sanitary zephyrs, through the agency of the Sanitary Commission.

Most respectfully submitted,

D. J. MacGowan.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION—AN EXPLANATION.

Washington, *March* 29, 1865.

To the Editor of the Washington Chronicle:

Dear Sir:—Your issue of this morning contains an appeal from Wilmington, under date of March 15, in behalf of the Union prisoners gathered at that point, in which the writer states that the Sanitary Commission was out of supplies. As this may convey to many a false impression, I must ask you to publish the following brief statement:

From the first military movements preparatory to the attack on Fort Fisher, the Commission was represented in that army by an efficient agent, Mr. Foster, and assistants, with an ample stock of hospital and battle-field supplies, renewed from time to time from our depots further North.

On the first arrival of the prisoners, he was able partially to supply many of their wants, especially in clothing and milk punch, the articles most needed in their critical condition. In furnishing the latter article, which was issued in large quantities, Mr. Foster was assisted by the provost marshal, who added twenty barrels of whiskey (confiscated) to his stock.

Preparations having been made in New York in anticipation of the demand, a steamer was despatched from that port with supplies on the 11th instant, but did not arrive until after the date of the letter above referred to. A small part of this cargo was reserved for the twenty-four hundred, more or less, of Sherman's army in hospital at Wilmington, but much the larger portion was devoted to the prisoners, and is still doing its good work for them, whose wretchedness words cannot exaggerate, nor in any measure describe.

A glance at the appended list of the cargo will indicate its character and value (over $60,000), to which heavy additions have since been made.

The large and important work of the Commission has already called out the hearty acknowledgments of General Abbott, the commander of the post, Dr. Barnes, the medical director, and Dr. Buzzell, in charge of forwarding the prisoners.

I deem it important to add, in this connection, that the whole number of prisoners received by exchange at Wilmington is about 8,700, and that a large proportion of them have already been removed from that crowded and filthy town to comfortable hospitals, or furloughed to visit their homes, most of them remaining, being too feeble for transporting. Of the whole number exchanged, 8,700, about 2,000 were on stretchers, many of whom have died.

Yours, very respectfully,

Francis Fowler,
Asst. Sec. U. S. San. Commission.

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OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1st. *To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2d. *To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3d. *To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4th. *To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., Cambridge, Mass.
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Wm. H. Van Buren, M.D.	Wolcott Gibbs, M.D.
C. R. Agnew, M.D.	Charles J. Stillé.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regi-

ment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

CENTRAL DEPOTS OF COLLECTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Nos. 10 & 11 Cooper Union, New York.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, State House, New Haven, Conn.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

DEPOTS OF DISTRIBUTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 244 F Street, Washington, D. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Camp Distribution, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 46 Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Harper's Ferry, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Annapolis, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Camp Parole, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Norfolk, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, City Point, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Newberne, N. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Beaufort, S. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, New Orleans, La

Temporary Depots for distribution are established from time to time as necessities of the service require.

DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST.

CENTRAL DEPOTS OF COLLECTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, N. Y.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 59 Fourth Street, Pittsburgh, Penna.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Columbus, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

EAST.

"Special Relief" Office, 76 Kingston Street, Boston, Mass.

"Special Relief" Office, 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

"Soldiers' Rest," Buffalo, Exchange street, opposite R. R. Depot.

"Soldiers' Lodge," Harrisburg, Pa.

"The Home," Baltimore, Md.

"Home for Wives, Mothers and Children of Soldiers," Annapolis, Md.

"Special Relief Office," No. 389 H Street, Washington, D. C., where assistance is rendered in procuring Pay, Pensions, Bounty, Prize Money, and arrears of Pay and Bounty, and in various other ways.

"The Home," No. 374 N. Capitol Street, Washington, D. C.

"Home for Wives, Mothers and Children of Soldiers," 374 N. Capitol St., Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 4," for discharged soldiers, No. 389 H Street, Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 5," near terminus of Washington and Alexandria R. R., Maryland Avenue, Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 6," near Steamboat Landing, Sixth Street, Washington, D. C.

"Alexandria Lodge," near terminus of Orange and Alexandria R. R., Alexandria, Va.

"Special Relief Office," New Orleans, La.

"The Home," New Orleans, La.

WEST.

Soldiers' Home, No. 81 Jefferson avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Soldiers' Home, Third Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky., James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, New Albany, corner of Main and State Streets.

Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill., C. N. Shipman, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn., Captain I. Brayton, Sup't. Rev. J. Hoblit, Relief Agent

Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio, Col. Isaac Dalton, Superintendent.

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Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn C. W. Christy, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

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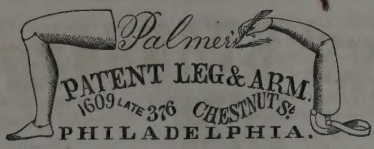

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The "PALMER" ARM and LEG are now furnished for the mutilated heroes of the Army and Navy, and I have the pleasure of presenting extracts from official letters from the Surgeon-General, which will gratify numerous applicants, who, in the past, have been led to believe that they must accept an inferior limb, or have no aid from Government.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Dec. 12, 1863.

SIR:—The Board of Medical Officers assembled in the City of Philadelphia, for the purpose of examining the different models submitted to them for an Artificial Arm, having reported * * * * * * * * *

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD, WHEN A SOLDIER MAY DESIRE TO PURCHASE "THE MORE ELEGANT AND EXPENSIVE ARM OF PALMER," FIFTY DOLLARS WILL BE ALLOWED TOWARDS PAYMENT FOR THT SAME.

By order of the Acting Surgeon-General.
C. H. CRANE, Surgeon U.S.A.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Sept. 20, 1864.

SIR:—In answer to your letter of the 1st inst., I am directed to inform you, that the Report and recommendation of the Medical Board recently assembled in New York, to examine samples and models of Artificial Limbs, is not designed to supersede the recommendation of the former Board, SO FAR AS REGARDS THE LIMBS MANUFACTURED BY YOU.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, by order of the Surgeon-General,
W. C. SPENCER, Assistant Surgeon U.S.A.

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